

O S H U A.

A

K.

SACRED DRAMA.

JOSHUA.
CALEB.
OTHNIEL.

ACHSABH.
Angel.
CHORUS.

High-Priest, Priests, Chiefs, Elders and Attendants.

PART I.

Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Achsah, High-Priest,
Priests, Chiefs, and Elders of Israel.

Chorus of Israelites after their miraculous Passage
of the Jordan, and Entrance into Canaan.

Y Sons of Israel, ev'ry tribe attend,
Let grateful songs, and hymns to heav'n
ascend:

In Gilgal, and on Jordan's banks proclaim
One first, one great, one Lord Jehovah's name.

Jos. Behold, my friends, what vast rewards are
given.

To all the just, who place their faith in heav'n!
Oh! had your Sires obey'd divine command,
They too, like you, had reach'd the promis'd land;
But rebels to the laws th' Almighty gave,
They in the desert met an early grave.

Cal. O Joshua, both to rule and bless ordain'd,
When Moës the eternal mansions gain'd,
What boundless gratitude to Heav'n we owe,
Who did, in thee, a chief so wise bestow?
Courage, and conduct shine in thee compleat,
Justice and mercy fill thy judgment-seat.

A. I. R.

O first in wisdom, first in pow'r,
Jehovah ev'ry blessing show'r
Around thy sacred head;
The neighb'ring realms with envy see,
The happiness and liberty,
O'er all thy people spread.

Ach. Matrons, and virgins, with unwear'y'd pray'r,
Pleasit Heav'n for thee their fav'rite care.
The first lawgiver broke th' Egyptian chain;
And, by thy hallow'd aid, we Canaan gain.

A. I. R.

Oh! who can tell, Oh! who can hear
Of Egypt, and not shed a tear;

Or, who will not on Jordan smile,
Releas'd from bondage on the Nile.

Jos. Caleb, attend to all I now prescribe;
One righteous man select from ev'ry tribe,
To bear twelve stones from the divided flood,
Where the priests feet, and holy cov'nant stood;
In Gilgal place them; hence twelve more provide,
And fix them in the bosom of the tide:
These when our sons shall view with curious eye,
Thus the historic columns shall reply.

C H O R U S.

To long posterity we here record
The wond'rous passage, and the land restor'd:
In wat'ry heaps affrighted Jordan stood,
And backward to the fountain roll'd his flood.
So long the memory shall last
Of all the tender mercies past.

A. I. R.

Jos. While Kedron's brook to Jordan's stream
It's silver tribute pays;
Or while the glorious sun shall beam
On Canaan golden rays;
So long the memory shall last
Of all the tender mercies past.

S C E N E II. Angel appearing.

Otb. But, who is he?—Tremendous to behold!
A form divine in panoply of gold!
With dignity of mien, and stately grace,
He moves in solemn, slow, majestic pace;
His auburn locks his comely shoulders spread,
A sword his hand, a helmet fits his head;
His warlike visage, and his sparkling eye,
Bespeak a hero or an angel nigh.

A. I. R.

Awful, pleasing being, say,
If from Heav'n thou wing'd thy way?

J O S H U A.

Deign to let thy servant know,
If a friend, or pow'ful foe?

Ang. Joshua, I come commission'd from on high,
The captain of the host of God am I;
Loose from thy feet thy shoes, for all around
The place whereon thou stand'st is holy ground.
Job. Low on the earth, Oh! prostrate let me bend,
And thy behests with reverence attend.

R E C I T A T I V E.

Ang. Leader of Israel, 'tis the Lord's decree,
That Jericho must fall, and fall by thee;
The tyrant king, and all his heathen train,
At their own idol-altars shall be slain;
Th' embattell'd walls, and tow'r's, that reach the sky,
Shall perish, and in dusky ruin lie;
Scatter'd in air, their ashes shall be lost,
The place, the name, and all remembrance loft.

Job. To give command, prerogative is thine;
And humbly to obey, the duty's mine.
[Angel disappears.]

A I R.

Haste, Israel, haste, your glitt'ring arms prepare,
With valour abounding,
The city surrounding,
Deal death and dreadful war.

C H O R U S.

The lord commands, and Joshua leads;
Jericho falls, the tyrant bleeds.
[Exeunt.]

S C E N E III.
Othniel and Achsah.

R E C I T A T I V E.

Ob. In these blest scenes, where constant pleasure
reigns,
And herds, and bleating flocks, adorn the plains;
Where the soft season all it's blessings sheds,
Refreshing rivers, and enamell'd meads;
Here, in the covert of some palm-tree shade,
Direct me, love, to Achsah, blooming maid.

Acb. O Othniel, Othniel—

Ob. 'Tis my name I hear!
Othniel, in melting accents strikes my ear.

A I R.

Ab. O Othniel, Othniel, valiant youth,
May heav'n reward thy love and truth!

Ob. 'Tis Achsah's voice; who, but that heav'nly fair,
Could breathe so tender, and so sweet a pray'r?

Ab. But see! he comes—he heard, and knows
his pow'r.

Ob. Hail! lovely virgin of this blissful bow'r;
How sweet the music of thy tuneful tongue!

Ab. These praises to the feather'd choir belong.

A I R

Hark! 'tis the linner, and the thrush;
In dulcet notes
They pour their throats,
And wake the morn on ev'ry bush;
From morn to eve they chant their love,
And fill with melody the grove.

Ob. O Achsah, form'd for ev'ry chaste delight,
To inspire the virtuous thought, and charm the sight;
Thy presence gilds this variegated scene,
To the green olive adds a brighter green;
White to the lily, blushes to the rose,
With deeper red the rich pomegranate glows;

The fruits their flavour, flow'res their odours prove,
And here we taste true liberty and love.

D U E T.

Our limpid streams with freedom flow,
And feel no icy chains;
No moulded hail, no fleecy snow,
Polute our fruitful plains,
The years one vernal circle move,
And still the same { like Othniel's love,
{ like Achsah's love.

Ob. The trumpet calls; now Jericho shall know
What 'tis to have a lover for her foe.
The city conquer'd I shall hope to find
Thy father Caleb, like his Achsah, kind.

C H O R U S.

May all the host of heav'n attend him round,
And angels waft him back with conquest crown'd.

P A R T II.

S C E N E, before Jericho.

Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Achsah, High-Priest,
Chiefs, Elders, &c. The Priests bearing the Ark
of the Covenant.

Job. TIS well; six times the Lord hath been
obey'd;
Low in the dust the town shall soon be laid.
Now the seventh sun the gilded domes adorns,
Sound the shrill trumpets, shout and blow the horn.
[A solemn march during the circumviction of the Ark.]

C H O R U S.

[The walls of Jericho falling.]
Glory to God! the strong-cemented walls,
The tort'ring tow'r's, the pond'rous ruin falls:
The nations tremble at the dreadful sound,
Heav'n thunders, tempests roar, and groans the
ground.

Cal. The walls are levell'd, pour the chosen bands,
With hostile gore imbue your thirsty hands;
Set palaces and temples in a blaze,
Sap the foundations, and the bulwarks raze:
But oh! remember, in the bloody strife,
To spare the hospitable Rahab's life.

A I R.

See, the raging flames arise!
Hear, the dismal groans and cries!
The fatal day of wrath is come,
Proud Jericho hath met her doom.

A I R.

Ab. To vanity, and earthly pride,
How short a date is giv'n!
The firmest rock, that shall abide,
Is confidence in Heav'n.
[Exeunt.]

S C E N E II. The Passover.

Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Achsah, High-Priest,
Priests, Chiefs, Elders, and a full Assembly of
the People.

Ob. Let all the seed of Abrah'm now prepare
To celebrate this feast, with pious care.
Ages unborn, by this example led,
Shall bleed the lamb, and eat unleaven'd bread.

JOSHUA.

3

CHORUS.

Almighty ruler of the skies,
Accept our vows, and sacrifice;
Thy mercy did with Israel dwell,
When the first-born of Egypt fell.
What mighty wonders did the Lord
At the Red-sea to us afford!
He made our passage on dry ground,
While Pharaoh, and his host were drown'd.
He through the dreary desert led,
He flask'd our thirst, with manna fed:
His glory did on Sinai shine,
When we receiv'd the law divine.

SCENE III.

Joshua and Caleb.

Cal. Joshua, the men dispatch'd by thee to learn
The strength of Ai, and country to discern;
Elate with pride, deluded by success,
Despis'd their pow'r, and made the people less.
Easie of faith, we trust what they relate,
And now the hasty error find too late;
Our troops with shame repuls'd!—Oh fatal day!
Hark! Israel mourns; triumphs the King of Ai.

Chorus of the defeated Israelites.

How soon our tow'ring hopes are crost'd!
The foe prevails, our glory's lost!
Again shall Israel bondage know,
On! sheath the sword, unbend the bow.

Josb. Whence this dejection? rouse your coward
hearts;
Let courage edge your swords, and point your darts;
Remember Jericho! and sure, success
Shall crown your arms: the Lord our cause will bles.

A I R.

With redoubled rage return,
Ev'ry breast with fury burn;
The heathen nations soon shall feel
The force of your avenging steel.

CHORUS.

We with redoubled rage return,
All our breasts with fury burn:
The heathen nations soon shall feel
The force of our avenging steel. [Exeunt.]

SCENE IV.

Othniel and Achsah.

Otb. Now give the army rest; let war, awhile,
Smooth his rough front, and wear a cheerful smile:
The interval, if Achsah but approve,
I'll consecrate to virtue, and to love.

A I R.

Heroes, when with glory burning,
All their oil with pleasure bear;
And believe, to love returning,
Laurel wreaths beneath their care:
War to hardy deeds invites,
Love the danger well requites.

Ach. Indulgent heav'n hath heard my virgin
pray'r,
And made my Othniel it's peculiar care:
When he is absent, fills my hours employ,
When he returns, transporting is the joy.

A I R.

As clears the sun the tender flow'r,
That sinks beneath a falling show'r,
And rears its drooping head;
Thy presence doth my pow'r control,
Darts joy, like lightning, through my soul
And all my cares are fled.

SCENE V.

Cal. Sure I'm deceiv'd!—with sorrow I behold—

Let not this folly in the camp be told;
Now all the youth of Israel are in arms,
That Othniel, lost in dalliance, shuns th' alarms.
Otb. Oh! why will Caleb my fixt passion blame?
This sportless object justifies my flame.

Cal. No more—it wounds thy fame—daughter, retire—
[Exit Achsah.]

SCENE VI.

Caleb and Othniel.

Cal. Oh! let thy bosom glow with warlike fire.
Thou know'st what craft the men of Gibeon us'd
To obtain their league, which else haft been refus'd:
Soon did that treaty thro' the heathen ring;
Adonizedek of Jerus'lem king,
With the confed'rete pow'r of most renown,
Have sworn to ruin the revolted town.
Firm to our faith, it never shall be said,
That our allies, in vain, implor'd our aid.
Otb. Perish the thought! while honour hath a
name,
Israel or Gibeon's cause is still the same.

A I R.

Nations, who, in future story,
Wou'd record be with glory;
Let them thro' the world proclaim,
Friendship is the road to fame. [Exeunt.]

SCENE VII.

*Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Chiefs, Elders, &c. The
armies of the Israelites and Canaanites prepared
for battle*

Josb. Brethren and friends, what joy this day
imparts,
To meet such brave, such firm united hearts?
What tho' the tyrants, an unnumber'd host,
Their strength in horfe, and iron chariots boast?
Now shines the sun, that fixeth Canaan's doom:
Trust in the Lord, and you shall overcome.

[*Warlike symphony. The armies engage.*

Cal. Thus far our cause is favour'd by the Lord!
Advance, pursue; Jehovah is the word!

[*Symphony repeated.*

RECITATIVE.

Josb. Oh! thou bright orb, great ruler of the
day!
Stop thy swift course, and over Gibeon stay.
And Oh! thou milder lamp of light, the moon,
Stand still, prolong thy beams in Ajalon.

CHORUS.

Behold! the lift'ning sun the voice obeys,
And in mid heav'n his rapid motion stays.
Before our arms the scatter'd nations fly.
Breathless they pant, they yield, they fall,
they die.

J O S H U A.

P A R T . III.

Joshua, Caleb, Othniel, Achsah, &c.
C H O R U S .

HAIL! mighty Joshua, hail! thy name
Shall soar into immortal fame,
Our children's children shall rehearse
Thy deeds in never-dying verse,
And grateful marbles raise to thee,
Great guardian of our liberty!

A I R .

Acb. Happy, O thrice happy we,
Who enjoy sweet liberty!

*To your sons this gem secure,
As bright, as ample, and as pure.*

Josb. Caleb, for holy Eleazar send,
And bid the chiefs of Israel all attend,
To execute th' Almighty's great command,
And lot among the tribes the conquer'd land.

Cal. With thee, great leader, when Jephunneh's
son

Was sent to view the nations thou hast won;
Hebron obtain'd, we all it's produce sought.
Thick-clutter'd grapes, figs, and pomegranates
brought;

The men, their prowess carefully survey'd,
And deem'd the conquest easy to be made.
Here wou'd I stop—but oh, unhappy fate!
The tim'rous spies a diff'rent tale relate,
Increas'd the danger, multiply'd the foe,
And fill'd some dastard souls with panic woe.

Josb. Firm as a rock, when billows lash it's side,
Thou didst perfid, and all their threats defy'd.
The men appear'd; said Moses, man of God,
Caleb, the land, whereon thy feet have trod,
Mark what I say! for 'tis the will of heav'n
Shall be to thee, and to thy children giv'n.
Behold! the promise of the man divine
I ratify, and Hebron now is thine.

Cal. My cup is full; how blest is this decree!
How can my thanks suffice the Lord, and thee!

A I R .

Shall I bin. Mamre's fertile plain,

The remnant of my days remain?

And is it giv'n to me, to have

A place with Abrah'm in the grave?

For all these mercies I will sing

Eternal praise to heav'n's High King.

Chorus of the tribe of Judah.

For all these mercies we will sing

Eternal praise to heav'n's High King.

Othb. O Caleb, fear'd by foes, by friends ador'd,
Well have we paid this tribute to thy sword;
But still, to make thine heritage complete,
Debir remaint; Debir the giant's seat.

Cal. Worn out in war, I find my strength decline,
Counsel alone, the gift of age, is mine.

Is there a warrior, willing to pursue

The conquest, and that stubborn town subdue?

For him, for his, I amply will provide,

And to crown all, Achsah shall be his bride.

Othb. Glorious reward! the task be mine alone;
Transporting thought! Caleb, the town's thy own,

A I R .

Place danger around me,

The storm I'll despise;

What arm shall confound me,

When Achsah's the prize?

Exit.



S C E N E . II.

Joshua, Caleb, Achsah, &c.

C H O R U S .

Father of mercy, hear the pray'r we make,
And save the hero for his country's sake!

Josb. In bloom of youth, this stripling hath at-
chiev'd

What scarce in future times shall be believ'd.
Mankind no sooner did pronounce his name,
But he stood foremost in the rolls of fame:
Tyrants he humbled, with the world's applause,
And sav'd his country's liberty, and laws.

Chorus of Youths.

See, the conqu'ring hero comes!
Sound the trumpets, beat the drums;
Sports prepare, the laurel bring,
Songs of triumph to him sing.

Chorus of Virgins.

See the godlike youth advance!
Breathe the flutes, and lead the dance;
Myrtle wreaths, and roses twine,
To deck the hero's brow divine.

Full Chorus.

S C E N E . the last.

To them Othniel.

Cal. Welcome! my son, my Othniel, good and
great!

The ornament and champion of the state.
Take thy reward, the noblest Heav'n can raise,
And lasting love adorn your happy days!

Othb. What tongue can utter, or what heart con-
ceive,

The joy with which this blessing I receive?

Acb. Blest be the Pow'r, that kept thee safe from
harm's

Blest be the Pow'r, that gave thee to my arms!

A I R .

Oh! had I Jubal's sacred lyre,
Or Miriam's tuneful voice!

To sounds like his I wou'd aspire,

In songs like her's rejoice:
My humble strains but faintly show,
How much to Heav'n and thee I owe.

Othb. White life shall last, each moment we'll im-
In equal gratitude, and mutual love. [prove

D U E T .

Othb. O peerless maid, with beauty blest,
Of ev'ry pleasing charm possest;
As first in virtue thou art deem'd,
For truth thou art no less esteem'd.

Abc. O gen'rous youth, whom virtue fires,
And love of liberty inspires;
As first in valour thou art deem'd,
For truth thou art no less esteem'd.

Cal. While lawless tyrants, with ambition blind
Mock solemn faith, waste worlds, and thin man-
kind;

Israel can boast a leader just and brave,
A friend to freedom, and ordain'd to save.

Thus blest's, to Heav'n your voices raise,
In songs of thanks, and hymns of praise.

55 C H O R U S .

The great Jehovah is our awful theme,
Sublime in majesty, in pow'r supreme.

Hallelujah.